GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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Contents for Week of November 7, 1927. Vol. VI. No. 16

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THE TYPICAL THICK-WALLED, THATCH-ROOFED COUNTRY HOUSE OF THE AZOREAN PEASANT: NOTE THE CORN STACK TO THE LEFT

These peasants live in a healthful, mid-ocean climate and lead simple lives among their hills and rugged mountains (see Bulletin No. 1).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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The Azores: Where Flyers Alight and Cables Radiate

WHEN Miss Ruth Elder tried to fly across the Atlantic and dropped into the sea near the Azores she failed in her purpose but emphasized the increasing importance of the Azores as a mid-Atlantic communication center.

And within the Azores group Fayal is the most important so far as contact with the outside world is concerned. Sao Miguel is larger, and Angra, the capital, on Terceira, is a better port that Horta, on Fayal.

But Fayal is the communication hub of the Atlantic, with spokes reaching out to Europe, the two Americas, and Africa. On Fayal Island there are four cable companies, two American, and two European. There are more than 150 young "news pushers," as the dispatching operators are called, and each group has its own mess.

Active Volcano, Fortunately, on a Separate Island

Arriving at Fayal in the daytime one sees a ribbon of road around the island, and the whitewashed villages with a church for a pendant among the ivory bits that are strung along this 35-mile circular tour. Out near some detached rocks upon the west end there is a lighthouse which appears at first to be a minaret. From there to Horta, the town, is a steep declivity several hundred feet high, so that the road has to sweep up to avoid washing itself to death in the glistening surf.

Amid smiling seas the Azores, from November to March, usually wear a cloud blanket so that the fine cone of Pico, which sounds like Orange Pekoe but simply means "peak," is hidden as an approaching ship swings to the north. Pico has a separate island to itself, and since Pico is an active volcano this is as it should be.

The "Fairy Town of Horta"

Twilight had fallen when the writer's vessel finally came alongside the fairy town of Horta, now made up of white blotches against a dark hillside with electric lights hiding the details. Horta is not really a port, since it lacks a green light to complement the red one on the end of the single breakwater. So passengers land in a launch which tosses up and down in the swell.

A Portuguese, with wide-brimmed fuzzy hat, V-neck white sweater and side burns, ran the launch. He took a liking to us and showed us around the town, which, like a certain flower, had folded itself up with the setting of the sun.

Horta's chief claim to fame seems to be that Mark Twain and the cable companies have honored it with their attention. Mark said something about a tiny fort here which would have to be taken back up the volcanic slopes in case of war. That was in the days before the Azores were the alighting spot for transoceanic flights. The fort has not grown any.

Horta greets one with a mosaic sidewalk in the Portuguese style, and many of its buildings are faced with glistening tile, so that as one walks down the street at night he seems to be threading his way along some peculiar bathroom in an old Mogul palace or a Chicago boarding house. The solid-wheeled oxcarts were parked at odd points here and there and, in the night time, the only vehicles to be had are automobiles.

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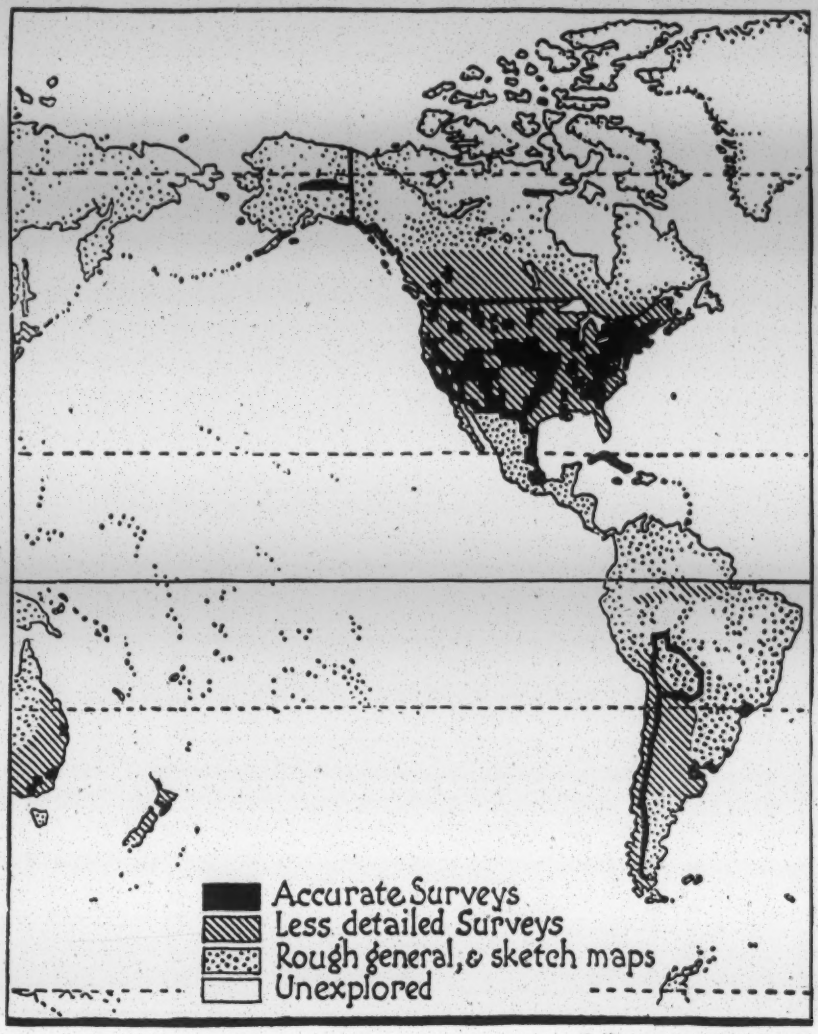

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PARTS OF BOTH AMERICAS STILL AWAIT A COLUMBUS TO EXPLORE THEM
(See Bulletin No. 3)

With the map of your school geography or a world map can you locate upon this map, and upon that on the last page, the places referred to in Bulletins Nos. 3 and 4?

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The Mystery of the Wandering Gypsy

GYPSIES must stop roaming!

So said the Soviet government of Russia more than a year ago, but this edict has not resulted in any permanent "settling down" of gypsies, even in Russia. The covered wagon, the swarthy soothsayer in colorful rags, wild gypsy music at the roadside camp fire, survive. Such proclamations are old stories to gypsies. Many nations, in many ages, have tried to control this strange people—and have failed.

Most civilizations depend upon people occupying and defending the land which they inhabit. The gypsy's protection is just the opposite. He moves along.

The Mystery of the Call of the Open Road

Since the early part of the nineteenth century students have tried to understand the gypsy. They have compared the gypsy of Russia to the gypsy of Hungary, Spain, England and America. They have charted his westward advance. They have examined his language and linked it with Sanskrit and tongues of India. They set down his customs. They have accounted for nearly every characteristic of the gypsy race except the one that sets the gypsy apart from all other races. Why has the flame of nomadism lived in the gypsy? Why can't he deny the call of the open road? That is the real mystery. It stands unexplained.

Gypsies have had inducements to settle on the land in nearly every nation they have invaded. In Scotland they paid for vagrancy with their necks in the time of James V. A few countries can report permanent communities of gypsies, but generally the law glides over their black heads and fails to mold them into "good, solid citizens." Sons and daughters of Romany are inveterate roamers.

Romany, or "The Sect of Husbands"

Another mystery of Gypsydom, the capacity for keeping the race strain pure although they wander the world over and mix with men of all nations, is easier to explain. Strict obedience to three precepts of gypsy law has saved their individuality from the world's melting pot, according to George Borrow. This British missionary studied the gypsy nearly 100 years ago, yet so fine is his prose, so accurate were his observations, and so unchanging is the gypsy, in both lineage and language, that Borrow's books to this day are treasures of lore. The three commandments of Romany are:

> Separate not from the husbands.
> Be faithful to the husbands.
> Pay your debts to the husbands.

"Rom" means "man" in the gypsy tongue. The first and third commandments are directed to the "rom." The second is directed to the women whose position in the tribe is hinted by the repetition of the word "husbands." Indeed, "Romany" may be translated "the sect of husbands."

Laws Prohibit Debtors Serving as Slaves

The first injunction, "separate not from the husbands," is responsible for the maintenance of the tribal spirit and the language. That the second has been

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The street as we walked down it, and passed so many churches that Horta seemed to be the Bokhara of the Catholic world, was being used for sentimental purposes, for Horta has its nightly rehearsals of the balcony scene from Romeo and Juliet. The balconies are narrow and long, looking like sample bits of steel fence hung up on display.

Our side-burned mentor took us to a movie theater fronted with salmon tiles. We secured a box in the lower of three horseshoes around which the town was arranged. If the social strata maintained their same relative positions at home that they do in the theater, then the Horta palaces would be down near the sea and the lowlier and more grimy members of society up near the lava line.

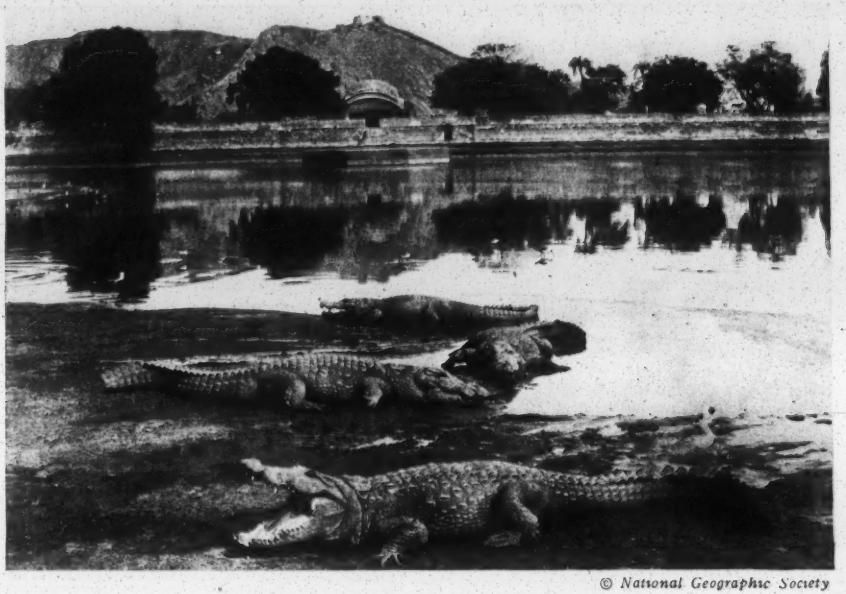
From June to September the whole island of Fayal is marked out with blue and white hydrangea hedges and is one of the loveliest spots on earth, with sometimes-smoking Pico "Fujiyamaing" in the background.

How Volcanoes Molded the Islands

The Azores are certainly the result of tremendous volcanic eruptions that have continued to change their physical aspect ever since their discovery in the fifteenth century. On every hand are evidences of former upheavals, from the gray lava stones that are used in the construction of houses and the building of roads to the underlying streaks of ashes that are visible in places where the surface soil has washed away, and the many cup-shaped craters and beautiful lakes on the tops of the mountains.

Violent earthquakes have disturbed the Azores during the centuries since their discovery. The annals of the islands vie with those of Italy in graphic accounts of the ever-interesting and terrible volcanic phenomena. Cities were buried, mountains disappeared and sent their ashes to unbelievable distances; islands hundreds of feet high suddenly appeared and as suddenly disappeared, and flames of fire illuminated whole islands and their intervening waters.

Bulletin No. 1, November 7, 1927.



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ALLIGATORS ON THE BANK OF AN INDIAN LAKE

The Narbada River, the great stream of central India, is infested with crocodiles, the "mugger" of the Hindus. Although it is one of the most thickly populated regions of the world the huge peninsula we call India has jungles, and wild areas where tigers still prey upon human beings. Other parts have an ancient and high civilization (see Bulletin No. 5).

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Many World Areas Still Are Unexplored

"WANTED: New Worlds to explore."

That is the plaint of some modern adventurers who deplore the fact that Columbus, the Cabots, and a host of other seafarers in their primitive crafts of centuries past took the joy out of the game of "world hunting" and left them to develop their up-to-date steamboats and aircraft with nothing to discover. But in nearly every continent, perhaps just around the corner from the old explorers' haunts, there are little known regions that still beckon persuasively to explorers of to-day.

While there are no areas in the United States which can be properly termed "unexplored," numerous little-known patches of land, perhaps traversed only once or twice in our history, and a few that have never been surveyed, may be found here and there on our map. Only a few years ago it might have been said that the Clay Hills region of southeastern Utah was unexplored, but in 1923 a party of the National Geographic Society worked in this area. The Craters of the Moon area, in Idaho, has been adequately described only within the past few years.

Little Known Regions of the United States

In the lake country along the Canadian border there is a large area about which little is known, while Yuma and Pima counties, and a portion of Maricopa County, Arizona, are yet to be thoroughly explored. A short time ago San Juan County in southeastern Utah, near Chaco Canyon National Monument, upon which an expedition of the National Geographic Society has been working, was included among these untrampled areas. A large part of the State of Nevada, which is more than twice as large as Pennsylvania, is almost devoid of human life, particularly the central and southern portions of the State. Fewer than 80,000 people live in the whole State. One has yet to travel by compass in parts of northern Michigan and Wisconsin.

Canada, our northern neighbor, has several blank places on her map, due to the lack of verified information. Only vague reports are responsible for many of the topographic marks to be found on maps of some areas in the great Dominion.

Ungava Peninsula, on the eastern bank of Hudson Bay, is little known, other than by the fact that it has been made famous by its shape, which is like that of the head of a woman. Here and there on its outward fringes are small villages, but its interior still offers the lure of hidden places. Its rivers are named, but their westward courses, as shown on the maps, are probabilities rather than the work of surveyors. Although Labrador has been in the spotlight for years, during the boundary dispute recently settled with Canada, this colony still holds its natural secrets except in the immediate vicinity of the beaten trails.

Canadian Arctic Still Virgin Territory

From Great Slave Lake eastward to Dubawnt River and Lake, and northward from Lake Athabasca, there lies a vast area on which most maps show rivers and lakes which can only be outlined in the most hypothetical fashion. Northern Keewatin Province, where the Arctic Circle passes between Hudson Bay and the various bays and inlets about the islands of the Canadian Arctic, remain unmarked by topographic symbols.

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THE DAUGHTER OF A GYPSY QUEEN

She epitomizes the people described by Dr. Edwin A. Grosvenor in "The Races of Europe" (National Geographic Magazine, December, 1918) as of "wiry figure, with black hair; large, shining black eyes, perfect teeth, and a flowing rich complexion."

strictly observed, there is ample testimony by the fact that gypsies the world over have staring black eyes, rich black hair, and a swarthy complexion. The last commandment has lost force because civilized law will not permit operation of the old gypsy law compelling the defaulting debtor to serve as slave to the lender for a year and a day.

Name Is Misleading

The name gypsy itself is the perpetuation of an error. The first tribes arriving in England told the British they came from "Litill Egypt." In the rough and tumble of language "Egyptians" became "gypsies." The French fell into error, too, and their mistake has been transplanted to English. Thinking gypsies came from Bohemia, the French called them Bohemians. With the big "B" become dwarf, we have a label for a "light-hearted, sophisticated man-about-town." A bohemian, perforce, is a "root" relative to Bohemia, the eastern knob of Czechoslovakia, which is not particularly famous for light-heartedness, sophistication or men-about-town.

The Soviet edict was probably directed to the "Zigani." This appellation is far more accurate than "gypsy" and may be regarded as the true universal root name by which the race itself prefers to be known. In the Balkans it becomes Tsigan; in Greece and Turkey, Tshingian; in Italy, Zingari; in Germany, Zigeuner. Their international name may not have escaped the English language entirely, for some authorities find it in our word "tinker." The gypsies were the peddlers and the itinerant repairmen of Old England—the tinkers.

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Unmapped Regions of the Old World

ALTHOUGH Asia, Europe and Africa are far older homes of civilized peoples than the Western Hemisphere, treated in the preceding Bulletin, these Old World continents have areas which remain practically unknown.

Within the last few years two explorers of the National Geographic Society penetrated portions of western China in Yunnan, Szechwan and Kweichow Provinces about which nothing much was previously known. Other explorers vied with them in putting these areas in detail on our maps. Kingdon Ward pushed from southwestern China across Tibet and northern India, outlining a route which had seldom been trod before.

Mongolia and the Gobi Desert still have their secrets, though yearly new discoveries are made in this area. Remarkable finds of remains of dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals have recently been made there.

Siberia Guards Her Secrets Jealously

Not far north of the Desert, Siberia perhaps retains the secrets of more virgin land than any other part of the world. Nearly the entire northern part of the country is uncharted. Only a few weeks ago a mountain towering 11,000 feet was reported to have been discovered near Irkutsk, one of Siberia's largest settlements.

"Dark" Africa is still dark in spots. There are great portions of the Sahara Desert about which practically nothing is known, notably the region extending from latitude 22° to 26° near longitude 5° west. It is inhabited by tribes that the French, for years, have been trying to subdue. Until recently, little was known about the western Sahara or about the southern and central portions of the Libyan Desert. Captain Augiera's three expeditions, between 1913 and 1921, and the expedition of Hassanein Bey, an Egyptian explorer, have done much to open up their areas. Hassanein Bey has given us interesting data concerning a prehistoric people who once inhabited the desert oases. (See "Crossing the Untraversed Libyan Desert," in the National Geographic Magazine for September, 1924.)

The area west of Kufra Oasis, although explored by Hassanein Bey in 1921, still remains blank on the maps. There are several places in the Belgian Congo, Angola, Mozambique and even in Rhodesia—in fact, in all of Central Africa—where the white man has seldom been off the beaten trail.

What Does "Unexplored" Mean?

It might be well to qualify the term "unexplored." In its broad sense it has been used to cover those areas about which so little is known that most of their topography, natural features, plant and animal life are conjectural. There are portions of the country where the botanists and biologists can revel to their hearts' content, where the geologist can rub his hands in glee, and where the seeker of silent places will remain unmolested for days, months, and even years.

The northern and northwestern districts of Australia are comparatively unknown, although notable journeys have been made across the deserts during the last thirty years. Only in the areas served by the railroads is the country well known and the topography fixed.

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The second greatest river system on the North American Continent drains an area about which we are almost entirely ignorant. Exploring parties of the Geological Survey of Canada have been working in the Mackenzie River country, but their efforts have been confined to water routes. There are about 40,000 square miles of water area in the vicinity of the river, much of which is still unexplored and unmapped. Portions of the Canadian Rockies in northern British Columbia have their secrets as securely as Mt. Everest.

Geological Survey Working in Alaska

Alaska still holds untouched a large area of virgin land that has withstood the various rushes that have helped put the territory on the map. This virgin land perhaps calls as strongly to the pioneer as did the Yukon in the days of the great Klondike rush. The Endicott and Davidson ranges rise above the surrounding fringe of settlements on the Arctic Ocean and the Yukon River. Each summer the United States Geological Survey nips a chunk from the uncharted portions of Alaska, but much remains for whittling. The interior of most of the Arctic islands is yet untouched by civilization.

While most of Mexico is well known, there are some sections which have not been accurately surveyed. In Central America there are jungles and mountains that are yet to be traversed. The San Blas country of Panama, for instance, though passed over by American airplanes and penetrated by a few individuals, still holds secrets that are yet to be revealed.

Honduras is busy along the Mosquito Coast, but just behind it, in the northeastern portion of the country, the mapmakers are forced to leave a large area blank, for little is known about that section except rumors concerning the mountains, forests and uncivilized Indians of the interior.

South America Still Beckons the Explorer

The white man has yet to penetrate many square miles of territory in South America. These include large portions of western and northwestern Brazil, the northeastern portion of Bolivia, areas in southern Argentina and the Vaupes region of Colombia. Certain routes across most of these areas are fairly well known, but as soon as one leaves the beaten trail, territory is reached which has never been explored.

El Chaco, a vast area of land between Paraguay and Bolivia, is awaiting the ambitious adventurer. It covers about 200,000 square miles and is believed to be constituted mainly of swamps and jungles. A few merchants who even to-day, as they were in the days of the Phoenicians, are the pioneer explorers of distant and little-known areas, are about the only people who have ever visited the interior of the Chaco, lured there because it is the home of the quebracho tree, an important source of tannin.

The Oriente, constituting the eastern portion of Ecuador, is inhospitable in its climate and choked with jungles, and few are the white men who have braved contact with its savage, head-hunting natives to tell us the natural resources or even the physical features of this uncharted hinterland.

See whether you can locate places mentioned in this Bulletin on the map on the back cover page. For Old World areas which still are largely unexplored see map on last page, following Bulletin No. 5.

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Rajpipla, a Tiny State of Giant India

THE VISIT to the United States of the Maharajah of Rajpipla, who previously had arrived in London accompanied by a royal white elephant, called attention to a picturesque area of India.

Of approximately 600 native states in India, Rajpipla is among the smallest, somewhat resembling, in importance, a large county in one of our States.

Has a Standing Army of 111 Men

Rajpipla is about 200 miles north of the city of Bombay, in the northwestern part of India. The state is slightly larger than Rhode Island and has about two-thirds the population of Providence. The Maharajah is king and boasts family supremacy since 1470. He is entitled to be addressed "His Highness" and to a salute of 11 guns when approaching any possessions of the British Empire.

Except for a British agent who resides in these Indian states, the Maharajah has unrestricted power over his subjects. His power is rarely questioned except when a British subject is involved. Through tribute to neighboring states, his domain is protected and protective forces within the borders of Rajpipla are apparently unnecessary, considering the size of its "Army," which consists of 111 men.

Wild Natives Predominate

Two native tribes—the Bhils (bowmen) and the Kolis—make up the greater portion of the population of Rajpipla. The Bhils were once in power in India. Under the rule of the Moguls the Bhils were submissive and occupied the lowlands, but other tribes treated them so cruelly that they rebelled and fled to the hills, from which few of them have returned. They used the bow to defend the mountain fastnesses and repel invaders. In 1818 the British tried to subdue them without success. In 1825, through the use of milder methods, a British Agency was established in the state.

Foreheads Marked with Blood to Proclaim Royalty

In many of the central Indian states the princes, on succession, have their foreheads marked with blood from the thumb or toe of a Bhil. They believe this is a mark of Bhil allegiance, but it is more probably a relic of days when the tribe was in power in India.

They have binding oaths. The most sacred is that sworn by a dog, the Bhil praying that the curse of a dog may fall upon him if he breaks his word.

For centuries Hanuman, the monkey god, has been the chief divinity of these people. Offerings are also made to the much feared goddess of smallpox, and stone worship is still found among them. Many have become Moslems and Hindus.

Poisonous Kodra One of Chief Foods

Little more than one-third of Rajpipla is cultivated. Cotton is the principal crop, while rice and kodra are also largely grown. Kodra, a grain grown on the hillsides, is one of the chief foods, particularly of the Bhils. Unless washed

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TWO RUSSIAN GYPSIES OF IRKUTSK, SIBERIA

Compare the appearance and costumes of these Gypsies, in the cold north of Asia, with those of sunny Spain shown in the illustration with Bulletin No. 2.

New Guinea is perhaps the world's wildest spot. Thousands of miles of its interior have never been explored. Peopled by head-hunters of the most savage type, and pygmies, and other tribes of ethnological interest, the island probably offers regions for exploring as interesting as may be found anywhere. Expeditions return from the island with valuable scientific data and thrilling stories of adventure. Borneo, famous as the haunt of the "Wild man from Borneo," also has an interior which offers many virgin fields for explorers. The Celebes is another wild island among those thousands of islands off the southeastern coast of Asia and in the South Seas.

An Uninhabited Continent

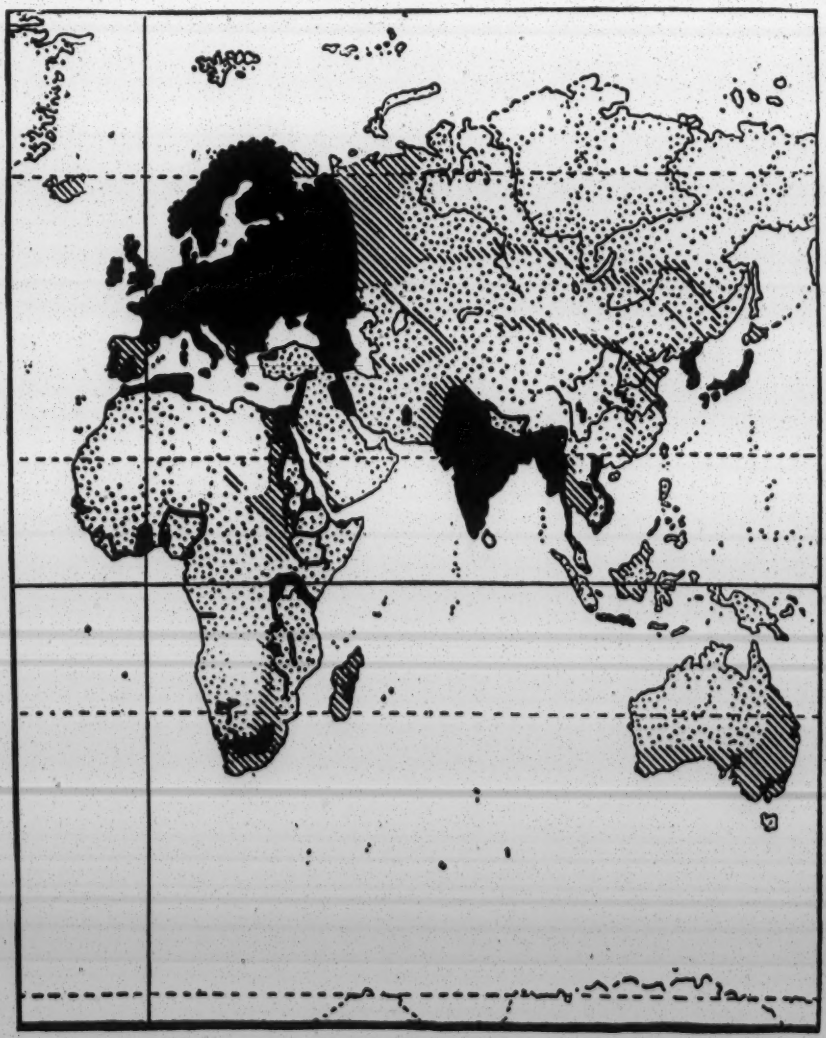
There is one great continent which cannot boast a single inhabitant and whose visitors can easily be counted, the vast Antarctic continent which Commander Richard E. Byrd plans to explore by airplane. Less is known about the Antarctic continent than any other considerable portion of the earth's surface. It supports only the lowest vegetable life, a few mosses and lichens, and its animal life is largely that of aquatic creatures that frequent its shores.

The huge blind spot in the Arctic Ocean, the Beaufort Sea area, has been whetting the appetites of explorers and aviators for years. Whether land lies anywhere below its impenetrable ice and snow is a question that still confronts those who are seeking adventure through exploration.

several times before consumption, however, it is slightly poisonous, causing giddiness and faintness.

In the southern portion of the state are teak forests. Bamboo matting, baskets, and grindstones are also produced.

Bulletin No. 5, November 7, 1927.



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MAP SHOWING HOW WELL OLD WORLD IS KNOWN

Compare this map with that on the back of the cover page, and note that the shadings follow the same scheme: that is, the black denotes accurate surveys; the diagonal bands show less detailed surveys; the dots indicate areas where rough, general and sketch maps have been made, and the plain white shows unexplored areas. From these two maps which continent do you conclude is the most completely mapped? Which has been least explored?